

Marine Region Program Descriptions and Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives

Program: Marine Habitat Conservation

The Marine Habitat Conservation program focuses on the planning, review, and implementation of activities that may impact marine habitats and projects directed at ecosystem based management activities. The program specifically focuses on the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA, Stats. 1999, Ch. 1015) and ongoing marine protected area (MPA) management. The program also oversees the review of environmental impact reports and proposals for projects that may impact the marine environment.

Project: Marine Project Review

The Marine Project Review project includes staff directed towards evaluating, reviewing and commenting on proposals from within and outside the Department. The project has primary responsibility for review of proposals that will potentially impact marine habitats and or water quality. Review includes, but is not limited to; once through cooling at coastal power plants, proposals for new pipelines and other structures on the sea floor, and decommissioning of oil and gas production platforms.

The Marine Project Review Project will:

- Review California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), water quality, and other documents for marine project development proposals along the California coastline.
- Prepare comments and recommendations to lead agencies suggesting mitigation measures for habitat conservation and protection of marine resources.
- Review and provide comments to State Water Quality Control Board on statewide water quality projects.
- Collaborate with other state, federal, and local agencies to identify resource impacts from proposed regulatory programs, projects, and plans, and develop ways to mitigate such impacts.
- Represent the Department on large-scale, long-range habitat planning activities and collaborate on development of measures to protect and maintain fish, plant and wildlife habitats and populations.
- Provide consultation and support for Marine Region and other Department staff.
- Respond to hazardous materials spills and water quality emergencies.

Budgeted Resources Dedicated to the Project: This project includes six positions and a Personal Services budget of \$524,098.

Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives for FY 2006-07:

- Attend pre-project consultation meetings.
- Review environmental documents and, if relevant, prepare comment letters for management signature to lead agencies (number of documents reviewed has averaged 450 per year).
- Participate in regional large scale long-term marine habitat and water quality planning activities.
- Prepare California Environmental Standards Act (CESA) permit documentation for individual projects in consultation with Habitat Conservation Planning Branch (HCPB), (average 4 per year).
- Conduct field investigations of spills and pollution events that threaten marine resources.
- Coordinate with OSPR to review and comment on Ecological Risk Assessments of contaminated sites in or near marine waters, and prepare recommendations for cleanup, restoration, or mitigation for impacts to marine resources.
- Review and participate in Marine Region and internal Department issues such as; write and review of internal Departmental CEQA and functional equivalent documents, Department management plans, grant proposals, and legislative bill and bill amendment analyses.
- Respond to public calls, electronic mailings, and written correspondence for information requests.
- Review and comment on scientific research projects/data resulting in Policy changes/amendments.
- Provide 'biological monitor' training for dredging companies related to the protection of herring population (2 -3 times per year).

Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives for FY 2007-08:

- Attend pre-project consultation meetings.
- Review environmental documents and, if relevant, prepare comment letters for management signature to lead agencies (number of documents reviewed has averaged 450 per year).
- Participate in regional large scale long-term marine habitat and water quality planning activities.
- Prepare CESA permit documentation for individual projects in consultation with HCPB (average 4 per year).
- Conduct field investigations of spills and pollution events that threaten marine resources.
- Coordinate with OSPR to review and comment on Ecological Risk Assessments of contaminated sites in or near marine waters, and prepare recommendations for cleanup, restoration, or mitigation for impacts to marine resources.
- Review and participate in Marine Region and other internal Department issues such as write and review of internal Departmental CEQA and functional equivalent documents, Department management plans, grant proposals, and

- legislative bill and bill amendment analyses.
- Respond to public calls, electronic mailings, and written correspondence for information requests.
- Review and comment on scientific research projects/data resulting in Policy changes/amendments.
- Provide 'biological monitor' training for dredging companies related to the protection of herring population (2 -3 times per year).